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## **Wrigley Special to "My Boys" Stars**

CHICAGO - Nostalgic fans often take intangible Wrigley Field keepsakes: the sights, the sounds, the smells. Kyle Howard didn't take any chances. The "My Boys" actor grabbed handfuls of mementos.

"I stole some dirt, which I had to do very sneakily," said Howard, who plays Bobby Newman, a writer who covers the Chicago Cubs in the TBS sitcom. "I didn't take a truckload, I took a handful. I put it in little glass jars. I gave one to my mom, one to my sister and one to my dad."

"My Boys" is roughly "Sex and the City" set in Chicago with more guys (obviously), more baseball and beer instead of Cosmopolitans. The show centers on P.J. Franklin, an easy-on-the-eyes tomboy who covers the Cubs for a local newspaper. Franklin has one primary girl friend and bunch of guy buddies, hence the show's title.

The cast spent a day at Wrigley in 2006 to shoot a scene for a first-season episode. They cherished having the Friendly Confines all to themselves, save for a few security guards.

"We still talk about it," said Reid Scott, known as radio station DJ Brendan Dorff on the show. "To get to play around and goof around on the grass of one of the hallowed halls of baseball, it's huge."

They played a pickup game, shagged balls and waited out a rain delay. They also snooped behind the dugouts to find, of all things, a urinal. Howard and fellow actor Jamie Kaler took a bathroom break, and they have pictures to prove it. Gross, but boys will be boys.

"You peed where Ty Cobb peed," said Michael Bunin, who plays sports memorabilia store owner and date-starved Kenny Moritorri on the show.

Bunin knows his baseball. He headed for the ivy as soon as the cameras started rolling.

"You know the ivy is sacred, but I did dive right into it the first time," he said.

That must have hurt.

"It did, you know and I know there's a brick wall there," Bunin said. "But I jump into it, and it was like Secret Service rushing the field. 'Don't jump into the ivy. Can't jump in the ivy.' I was like, 'Oh, I'm sorry I didn't know any better.' I tried to play it dumb."

Scott one-upped Bunin by making a one-handed diving catch in left field, if your eyes believe a photo on his MySpace page. It was staged, you heard it here first.

Scott, Howard and Bunin - at one time or another - loved baseball.

Scott's roots sprouted in New York, where he grew into a Yankees fan just to spite his father, who was, of course, a Mets fan. He distinctly remembers getting a baseball autographed by Bernie Williams, who was with Triple-A Albany-Colonie on his way up to the bigs. He also remembers another Yankees outfield prospect butting in.

"Bernie Williams is one of my favorite Yankees of all time, just a classy guy," Scott said. "I went up to him to get his autograph. Deion Sanders was right there, and just literally snatched it and said, 'I'll give you mine, too.' He signed it, and the 'S' for 'Sanders' was a big dollar sign. He said, 'I'm going to be money kid.'"

Howard and his sister were autograph hounds at an early age, mailing baseball cards to their favorite players and making annual trips to Cubs Spring Training games in Arizona to meet players.

"We would go to the games super early and stay super late and try to get autographs," Howard said. "We met Ryne Sandberg one year, and that was huge for us. I'm sure I still have a ball somewhere that he signed. I remember we caught him in the parking lot after the game, and there was a whole group of kids that surrounded his car. He was super gracious, rolled down the window, talked to all of us and shook our hands. It was really cool."

The boys haven't received that much feedback from Major Leaguers about the show. But they were in Los Angeles earlier this month for a Dodgers-Cubs series to promote it.

Scott excitedly greeted Tommy Lasorda, while Bunin, also a Yankees fan, buddied up with Joe Torre. He got a picture with the manager, but Bunin was in a Cubs hat, and Torre was obviously wearing Dodger blue. Not exactly a Yankee memento, but it will do.

"I would have worn a pink balloon hat, if I had to, to get in a picture with him," Bunin said.